

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI



SECRET
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
March 1, 1973

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DUPLICATE COPY
FOR CROSS FILING IN

CH COPY FILED IN Sokrat Como

Eased on information and/or investigation, Sokrat Como, Second Secretary, Albanian United Nations Mission (AUNM), is considered to be connected with the Albanian Intelligence Service (AIS).

On February 28, 1973, a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past reported that in a recent conversation with an Albanian emigre in New York City (NYO), the following items were discussed:

1. Como was concerned about the meeting between King Leka, son of King Zog, the former king of Albania, and the leaders of the various Albanian political parties in exile which was held in Madrid, Spain, from June 30, 1972 to July 4, 1972, for the purpose of the unification of all Albanian political parties in exile in the struggle to liberate Albania from Communism. Como had heard that the participants at the meeting had met again and he wanted to know what had been achieved.

Como was aware that Khasen Deva of The Prizren League headed the meetings and that Deva is married to a German woman. Como said this woman is the daughter of a German officer who had been a Colonel in the German Gestapo during the occupation of Albania by the Germans during World War II. Como said that in view of the foregoing, Deva may be getting secret funds from German Nazi organizations for the purpose of supporting the unification movement of Albanian political parties in exile.

DBDS/481

SECRET

Classified by George A. Dimler
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be disseminated outside your agency.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2003 2005

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(C) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(D) Foreign Relations ☐

SECRET

Secret Como

The source said The Prizren League is an Albanian emigre group established for the purpose of liberating Kosovo, an area in Yugoslavia inhabited by many people of Albanian extraction, from the control of Yugoslavia.

2. Como cited the newly-established Academy of Sciences in Albania as an outstanding achievement of the present Albanian Government. Aleko Buda is President of the Academy and Kol Popa is Vice-President. Como stated the Academy brings Albania to a new level in the field of education.

The source said Aleko Buda is a Professor who is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (CP) in Albania. Buda is about 65 years of age, and he was born in Elbasan, Albania. Buda received his higher education in Austria, graduating from the University of Vienna in the mid-1930's, and had been connected with the social democrats in Austria. Buda had been a history teacher in the high school at Tirana, Albania. Buda was active in the Communist underground in Albania during World War II. According to the source, Buda is used by the Albanian Government as a spokesman in cultural affairs.

The source stated Kol Popa is a Doctor of Chemistry and Pharmacy who is about 62 years of age. Popa also was born in Elbasan, Albania. He is the son of Simon Popa, Doctor of Medicine, who had been source's family physician in Albania. Kol Popa was educated in Italy, receiving a college degree about 1937 in the sciences. When he returned to Albania from Italy, Popa was a Professor of Chemistry at the Teacher's College in Elbasan, and he also operated a pharmacy. Source considered Popa a pliable member of the Albanian Communist

SECRET

SECRET

Bekrat Como

establishment in Albania. Source explained that while Albania was occupied by the Italians and Germans during World War II, Popa gave monetary support to both the Communist and anti-Communist underground. Source was a member of the Anti-Communist underground in Albania at that time, and he recalled going to Popa's pharmacy in Elbasan for the purpose of obtaining money from him for the anti-Communist underground movement. Popa gave some money but not much. Subsequently, the source learned that Popa had furnished more money to the Communist underground at the same time that he had given money to the anti-Communist underground. According to the source, Popa gave more money to the Communist underground in order to save his life. Popa was afraid harm would come to him if he didn't. For this reason, the source characterized Popa as a pliable member of the Communist establishment in Albania.

3. Como said the Albanian Government does not print certain publications such as the magazine "New Albania". Como said this magazine is printed in Communist China. Como said the Albanian Government does not have the equipment in Albania to print such magazines. The Albanian Government has ordered printing equipment from Germany (East or West Germany was not specified by Como), and Como anticipated the Albanian Government will be able to handle the printing of publications such as the magazine "New Albania" by 1975.

4. Como said Anthony Athanas had made a request for a visa from the Albanian Government to visit Albania. Como was aware that Athanas had been talking favorably about the present Albanian Government and has let it be known that he is willing to build and invest in Albania. Inasmuch as Athanas had been opposed to the Communist Government of Albania in the past, Como is sure that the United States Government may be behind the abrupt change in the attitude of Anthony Athanas towards the Albanian Government and that Athanas is a "tool" of the United States Government.

SECRET

SECRET

Sokrat Como

The source stated Anthony Athanas, millionaire owner of Fior 4 Restaurant in Boston, Massachusetts, is the former President of the national organization of the Pan-Albanian Federation of America (VATRA), a fraternal and social organization of Albanian-Americans, headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts. VATRA is basically anti-Communist.

5. Como discussed the cultural exchanges between Yugoslavia and Albania. Prior to coming to the United States in July, 1972, Como was connected with the Committee of Cultural Relations of the Albanian Government. This Committee dealt at length with problems regarding Yugoslavia. Como said there was an exchange of professors from the University of Prishtina in Yugoslavia and the University of Tirana in Albania. Como was responsible for liaison with Professor Mark Kramar and Professor Ali Kadri of the University of Prishtina while they were on exchange to the University of Tirana.

6. Como said he listened to the Albanian language radio broadcasts sponsored by the Agrar on Saturday mornings. Como objected to the fact that these broadcasts have been concerned with pointing out the atheistic stand of the Albanian Government. Como claimed this charge was not true; that religion in Albania was abolished voluntarily by the people of Albania.

The source stated Albanian Agrarian Democratic Party, Balli Kombetar (Agrar), is an anti-Communist political party in exile.

SECRET

- 48 -